

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

OMB-01 PC-01 /064 W

----- 077174

R 38731825Z OCT 75

FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9015

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 3873

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, JM

SUBJECT: PNP LEADERSHIP REAFFIRMS LOYALTY TO MANLEY
AND COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM

1. SUMMARY. PAST TEN DAYS HAVE SEEN WELL ORCHESTRATED GOJ-PNP CAMPAIGN TO ALLAY PUBLIC FEARS OF A DRIFT INTO COMMUNISM. EFFORT HIGHLIGHTED BY WIDESPREAD PRESS COVERAGE OF PNP DISAVOWALS OF COMMUNISM AND AFFIRMATION OF UNIFIED PNP SUPPORT FOR PM MANLEY, SPEECHES BY THREE GOJ MINISTERS, AND, LAST, A PUBLIC STATEMENT BY THE GOJ CABINET. END SUMMARY

2. CAMPAIGN WAS OPENED BY COLUMIST WILLIAM STRONG (EVON BLAKE), LONG- TIME PNP SUPPORTER AND ASSOCIATE OF PM MANLEY WHO ACCOMPANIED LATTER TO CUBA. STRONG ATTACKED MANLEY FOR BEING A "PRISONER OF THE INTELLECTUALS" AND UNABLE TO CONTROL LEFTISTS OF HIS OWN PARTY. HE FURTHER ALLEGED THERE IS RIFT IN THE PARTY, A MOVE TOWARD COMMUNISM, AND AN ATTEMPT TO REPLACE MANLEY WITH SPAULDING, MINISTER OF HOUSING. THE FOLLOWING DAY KEY PNP OFFICERS ISSUED A PUBLIC STATEMENT DENYING ANY SHIFT OF THE PARTY TOWARD COMMUNISM OR ANY ATTEMPT TO REPLACE MANLEY-- WE REGARD WITH CONTEMPT SUGGESTION MICHAEL MANLEY COULD BE PAWN OR PRISONER OF ANY GROUP WITHIN OR OUTSIDE PARTY".

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3. GOJ MINISTERS (INDUSTRY, TOURISM, AND FOREIGN TRADE), TONY SPAULDING (HOUSING), AND BLAKE (MARKETING AND COMMERCE). SPEAKING IN MONTEGO BAY, PATTERSON SAID HE WOULD NOT BE A MEMBER OF ACBAINET WHICH WOULD TAKE STEPS THAT REPUGIDATED HUMAN RIGHTS. ACCORDING TO PRESS: " WE DO NOT BELONG TO A MONOLITHIC ORGANIZATION WHERE EVERYBODY GET UP AND SAYS THE SAME THING IN THE SAME WAY". SUBSEQUENTLY, SPAULDING ALSO REAFFIRMED HIS LOYALTY TO PM MANLEY, WILE BALKE CRITICIZED "UNNECESSARY HYSTERIA" WHICH SURROUNDED GOVERNMENT'S POLICIES. LATTER SAID THERE IS NO EVIDENCE PNP IS COMMUNIST AND ACCUSATION WAS TOTALLY UNJUSTIFIED AND DANGEROUS WHEN COUNTRY NEEDED CONFIDENCE IN ORDER TO INCREASE ITS PRODUCTION AND SURVIVE.

4. CAPPING THE ABOVE, GOJ CABINET ON SEPTEMBER 29 ISSUED A STATEMENT RESEMBLING A LOYALTY OATH TO MANLEY. IT DENIED "ILL-FOUNDED" PRESS ALLEGATIONS REGARDING A LEADERSHIP RIFT, ATTEMPTS TO UNSEAT MANLEY, AND MOVES TOWARDS A "COMMUNIST POLICY". "AS A GROUP, CABINET IS WELDED TOGETHER BY A ONENESS OF PURPOSE, BASED ON COMMON OBJECTIVES AND A UNIFIED POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM".

5. COMMENT: DURING HIS PHASE ONE ANTI-INFLATION PACKAGE, MANLEY CALLED FOR A NATIONAL CONSENSUS TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES ON POLICIES NEEDED TO STRENGTHEN ECONOMY. THE LACK OF ANY SPECIFICS AT THAT TIME (EXCEPT FOR SOME ON EGALITARIANISM); RECENT SPATE OF LABOR TROUBLE WHICH AFFECTED ISLAND'S POWER SUPPLY AND BUUXITE INDUSTRY (LATTER STILL NOT SETTLED); JULY COST OF LIVING INCREASE OF 2.6 PERCENT; AND MORE HOTEL CLOSURES AND UNEMPLOYMENT HAVE ALL CONTRIBUTED TO AN EROSION OF PUBLIC CONFIDENCE IN GOJ EVEN AMONG SOME SUPPORTERS. COMPOUNDING MANLEY'S PROBLEMS, AN EXTERELY JITTERY PRIVATE SECTOR RECEIVES ALL GOJ/PNP ANNOUNCEMENTS WITH SKEPTICISM--EVEN THOSE OF BLAKE, WHOSE DENIAL OF A CHANGE IN POLICY WAS THE STRONGEST AND MOST LIKELY TO BE ACCEPTED. SEVERAL DAYS AGO OPPOSITION LEADER SEAGA ANNOUNCED THERE WOULD BE AN ELECTION WITHIN SIX MONTHS AND "HE COULD ALREADY SEE THE SIGNS".

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6. AGAINST ABOVE BACKGROUND, THERE IS STRONG POSSIBILITY MANLEY HIMSELF ENCOURAGED ORIGINAL ATTACK OF STRONG; I.E. HE REQUIRED EXCUSE TO TACKLE HIS UNRULY LEFT AND EXTRACT PUBLIC AFFIRMATIONS OF LOYALTY FROM PNP AND CABINET. HOWEVER, AFTER ALL THE DECLARATIONS, THE DAILY GLEANER EDITORIALIZED AS FOLLOWS:

"IT IS OF LITTLE GOOD FOR THE PRIME MINSSTER OR
SOME OF HIS MINISTERS TO STAND UP AND AFFIRM THAT
THEY BELIEVE IN DEMCORATIC SOCIALISM AND
IN TH ROLE OF THE PRIVATE SECTOR, WHEN OTHER
PROMINETNT MEMBERS OF THE PARTY AND OF THE
GOVERNMENT STAND UP AND DECRY EVERYTHING THAT
HAS TO DO WITH THE PRIVATE SECTOR".

7. IN SUM, PM MANLEY IS GOING TO HAVE TO "BITE THE
BULLET" IN MANY DIRECTOIONS (INCLUDING ANTI-INFLATION
MEASURES TO BE ANNOUNCED IN EARLY OCTOBER) IF HE IS
GOING TO REESTABLISH CONFIDENCE IN HIS LEADERSHIP SO
NECESSARY TO GET THE COUNTRY THROUGHT THE DIFFICULT
TIME AHEAD. OTHERWISE, OPPOSITION RECENT RENDERING OF
MANLEY'S 1972 CAMPAIGN SLOGAN "BETTER MUST COME" INTO
"BITTER HAS COME" WILL HAVE CONSIDERABLE
VOTER APPEAL. GERARD

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CENTRAL GOVERNMENT, COMMUNISTS, PARTY LINE, POLITICAL SITUATION, REORGANIZATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 01 OCT 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975KINGST03873
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: D750341-0486
From: KINGSTON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751098/aaaagvif.tel
Line Count: 136
Locator: TEXT ON MICROFILM, TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 SEP 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <15 SEP 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <09 OCT 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> srp 971016
Subject: PNP LEADERSHIP REAFFIRMS LOYALTY TO MANLEY AND COMMITMENT TO DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISM
TAGS: PFOR, PGOV, JM, PNP, (STRONG, WILLIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006